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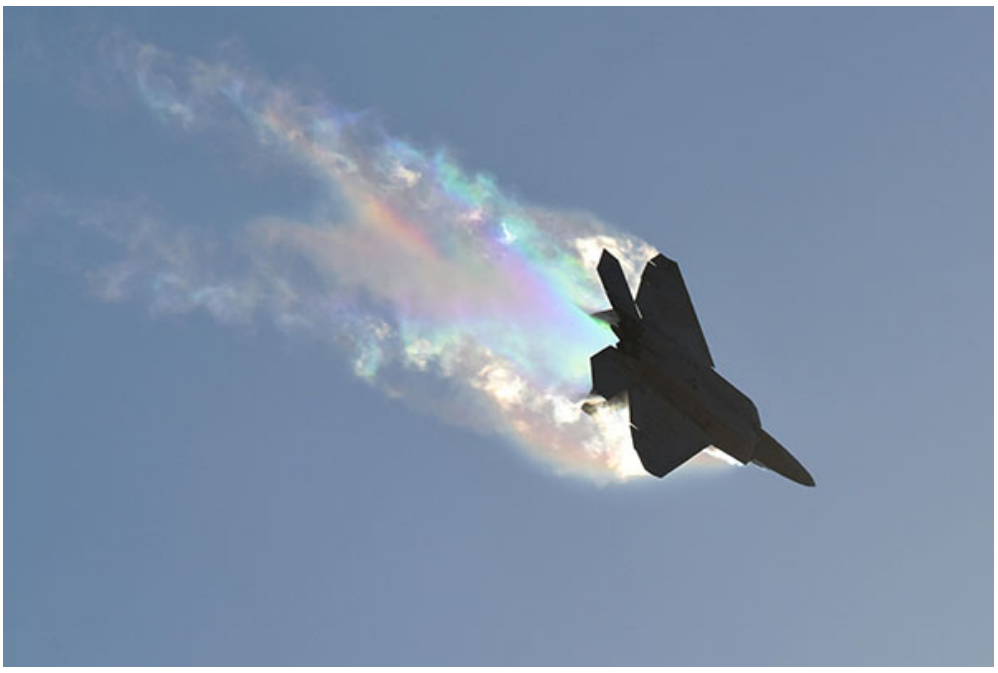

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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 2, 2019

Research Institute Wins $44 Million Award to Support Research in Advanced Structures Technologies for U.S. Air Force

The United States Air Force awarded the University of Dayton Research Institute a $44-million ceiling contract to support research in advanced structures technologies for aerospace vehicles ranging from planes to unmanned vehicles.

The seven-year contract for the Structures Engineering Research Program includes an initial award of $5.7 million for the first three tasks under the program for research in multi-disciplinary aerospace system technologies, software engineering and structural life extension.

The Air Force Research Laboratory's Aerospace Vehicles Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base will manage the contract, which also will include research in structural response prediction, life forecasting and structural integrity; modeling and design; and adaptive, hybrid, multifunctional and thermal structures.

"Part of what we do is look at how to extend the life of existing structures, but without sacrificing reliability or safety," said Matt Davies, deputy program manager and senior research engineer in UDRI's applied mechanics division. "With this new contract we will have the opportunity to work with next-generation structures and vehicles, such as those that use advanced composite and multifunctional materials."

Davies added the structures group has a longstanding history of work in analyzing, testing, modeling and developing aerospace structures. Recent work has included research into innovative structural design concepts, particularly for thermal and adaptive structures.

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